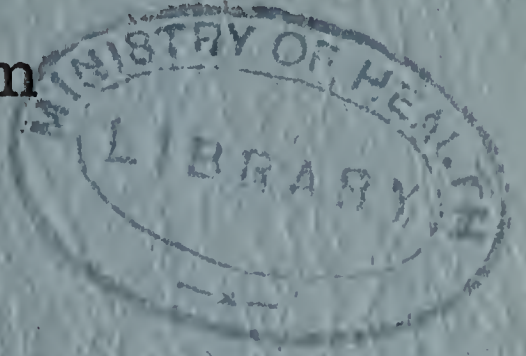


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and Aylsham



THE
ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health
(IRENE B. M. GREEN, M.D., B.S., D.P.H.)

Together with the

Report of the
Senior Sanitary Inspector
(H. S. HAWKINS, A.M.I.S.E., C.R.S.I.)

1950

STAFF

Medical Officer of Health:

IRENE B. M. GREEN, M.D., B.S., D.P.H.

Senior Sanitary Inspector, Surveyor and Inspector under Petroleum Acts:

H. S. HAWKINS, A.M.I.S.E., C.R.S.I.

Deputy Senior Inspector:

W. R. FRYER, A.R.SAN.I., M.S.I.A.

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Chief Clerk:

R. J. MITTON, F.N.I.C.S., M.R.I.P.H.H.

Clerical Staff:

MISS K. SCOTT.

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G. HOBSON (On Government Course to September, 1950).

P. OAKLEY (On Government Course to September, 1950).

C. DARLEY (On Government Course to September, 1950).

Assistant Surveyors:

L. ROBINSON, A.R.I.C.S., M.R.SAN.I., (To 26.9.50).

F. B. ALVES, A.M.S.E., A.I.A.S. (From 5.10.50).



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THE ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

(IRENE B. M. GREEN, M.D., B.S., D.P.H.),

FOR THE

Rural District of St. Faith's & Aylsham

NORFOLK

For the Year ending 31st December, 1950

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year, 1950.

There has been an increase of 1,260 in the estimated total population. The excess of births over deaths accounts for 203 of these. In previous years only the civilian population was estimated but for 1950 the figure given represents the total population, i.e., it includes those members of H.M. Forces who are stationed in the district.

WEATHER CONDITIONS

The winter of 1949-50 was mild and a cold late spring was followed by a very wet summer from July to September. The wet weather continued into the autumn and there was a very cold early winter. The average monthly temperature never rose above 62.3° and was as low at 33.7° for the month of December. The heaviest rainfall was in July (4.67 inches) the next being November (4.05), September (3.33) and February (3.03). Out of a total rainfall of 28.55 inches for the year, nearly half was registered between June and September.

VITAL STATISTICS

There were 17 less births and 5 less deaths registered this year than in 1949, giving a crude death rate of 10.1 and a birth rate of 15.8. Both rates have fallen slightly, the figures for 1949 being 10.8 and 16.5 respectively for the district and 11.6 and 18.8 for England and Wales.

Comparability factors, given by the Registrar General, when applied to the local rates give figures which can be compared with the rates in other areas. Thus the adjusted birth rate is 16.38 and the adjusted death rate is 9.49.

Infectious disease has caused 20 deaths, namely, tuberculosis (10), pneumonia (7), measles (2) and whooping cough (1). There were 48 deaths from cancer which is 13 less than last year. The total male deaths again exceeded the female by 8. Accidents accounted for 19 deaths of which 3 were road accidents and there was one suicide.

The infant mortality rate (30.7) compares favourably with that for 1949 (33.22) but is still above the record national figure of 29.8. There were 18 deaths of infants under one year and just over half of these occurred within the first four weeks of life. All but 3 occurred in infants under 3 months. Again there were more male deaths than female but the proportions 2:1 were not as great as in 1949. The causes of infant deaths could be described as inevitable in 9, possibly preventable in 2 and wholly avoidable in 7. The last group included 5 infectious and 2 accidents.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE

There were 1,181 cases of infectious disease notified during the year, nearly three times the number in 1949.

This large increase was entirely due to epidemics of measles and whooping cough, which together accounted for 1,066 notifications.

Apart from these two diseases the incidence was low, figures for all other diseases being lower than those for 1949.

Scarlet fever was equally prevalent but there were only a fifth of the cases of infective hepatitis and there was one less case of poliomyelitis.

Scarlet Fever.

There were 55 cases of scarlet fever again this year, the majority of them in school children between 5 and 10 years old. The incidence rate was almost the same as that for the whole country; 14 cases were admitted to hospital but no deaths or complications were reported.

Measles and Whooping Cough.

There was a large epidemic of measles during the year, 777 cases being notified. At least half of these occurred in children under school age, 76 of them under the age of 2.

In view of this heavy incidence, it is gratifying to report that there were only 2 deaths. These fatal cases were infants of 9 and 10 months respectively, in whom the disease was complicated by broncho-pneumonia. Both these infants were treated in hospital.

The epidemic, which started in the early winter of 1949 continued into the first 3 months of 1950 with a peak figure of 346 cases in February and a drop to 23 cases in March with only a few notifications each month thereafter until September. Although a winter epidemic, the relative mildness of the weather may have been a factor in preventing many complications and deaths.

There were 289 cases of whooping cough notified, the majority of these were in the pre-school age group, although 100 cases also occurred in school children between 5 and 10. The epidemic started in April with a peak of 69 cases in May and after a fall a further smaller rise to 43 cases in August. In spite of the very wet summer which must have kept children very much indoors there was only one fatal case, an infant of one month old who died of broncho-pneumonia.

The way in which the children of the district have weathered these two large epidemics shows the value of the new antibiotic drugs in controlling the secondary infections which used to cause so many fatal complications in the past. It also demonstrates their good general resistance due no doubt to better standards of nutrition and child care.

Diphtheria.

For the first time since August, 1947, I have to report 2 cases of diphtheria.

Both were adults, a brother and sister, and the diagnosis was made in the case of the young man from a swab taken during an attack of what was expected to be streptococcal tonsilitis. He was never very ill, was removed to the Isolation Hospital as a precaution and had a tonsil operation before discharge to clear up his carrier state. His sister gave a positive swab also, but was not ill at all and was considered to be an immune carrier.

About the same time positive swabs were reported from 2 school-children at Horsford, one of whom had been immunised and the other had not. Both were investigated at hospital and discharged as non-infectious.

There is still an element of doubt as to whether the germ found in any of these 4 cases was in fact virulent. It was extensively investigated by experts who stated that this particular strain, while potentially virulent, had never been reported as the cause of an epidemic.

The action taken may have been unnecessary but in the light of the first evidence was probably wise.

Poliomyelitis.

There were 16 cases of poliomyelitis notified during the year, 13 males and 3 females, which is one less than in 1949. Ten cases were adults (8 male and 2 female) 4 were schoolchildren and only 2 were under school age.

The majority of the cases were either non-paralytic (4) or had transitory paralysis (8) which had disappeared before they left hospital. Only 4 cases had residual paralysis and of these 2 were completely recovered in 6 months and one in 9 months. The most severe case was a woman of 25 who was nursed for many months in an iron lung and at the end of the year was still very severely paralysed. She is the only case out of the 16 to be permanently disabled.

Most of the cases arose sporadically and appeared to have had no connection with one another. Three at least acquired their infection outside the county and 3 were service cases attached to the same station. Two cases occurred in the same parish within 6 weeks of each other and although there had been no direct contact between them the children of the 2 families had played together and may have passed on the infection by this means.

Two other cases were a farmer and his cowman respectively and it would be fair to assume that the first case infected the second. The first cases in the district were notified in February and the last case in November, the largest number (6) occurring in August.

To sum up, the district has had its share of the high incidence of poliomyelitis in 1950 but fortunately only one case of permanent disability has resulted.

Infective Hepatitis (Epidemic Jaundice).

Only 12 cases of infective hepatitis were notified during the year compared with 60 in 1949. It is possible that the cool wet summer had some effect upon the incidence of this disease.

Enteric Group.

No case of typhoid, paratyphoid or dysentery was notified during the year.

Food Poisoning.

Only 2 cases of food-poisoning were notified in 1950. Each was due to salmonella typhimurium and no infected foodstuff was identified in either case.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938-48.

Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949.

The powers to restrict the retail sale of infected milk under the above regulations were used on three occasions during the year. In two cases, bulk samples of milk gave positive results for *Brucella Abortus* and in the other case, there was human infection in the farmer's family, i.e., polioencephalitis.

In all cases, prompt arrangements were made to have all the milk pasteurised by the Milk Marketing Board prior to retail sale. Two of the notices were withdrawn before the end of the year and the other one was still in operation on December 31st.

Tuberculosis.

Pulmonary tuberculosis caused 9 deaths in 1950 and 45 new cases were notified. Thirteen cases of the non-pulmonary type were notified, one death was registered from this cause.

Again we have the County statistics for tuberculosis in advance of the Annual Report of the County Medical Officer and the following tables show the comparison between the County and District rates:—

<i>Area</i>	<i>Pulmonary</i>	<i>Rate</i>	<i>Non-Pulmonary</i>	<i>Rate</i>
County of Norfolk ...	232	0.64	91	0.25
St. Faith's and Aylsham ...	45	1.2	13	0.34

Tuberculosis Mortality rate per 1,000 population, 1950.

<i>Area</i>	<i>Pulmonary</i>	<i>Rate</i>	<i>Non-Pulmonary</i>	<i>Rate</i>
County of Norfolk ...	72	0.19	12	0.03
St. Faith's and Aylsham ...	9	0.24	1	0.02
England and Wales (all forms of the disease) ...	—	0.36	—	—

It will be seen from the above figures that the number of known cases of tuberculosis has considerably increased, 45 new cases being diagnosed during the year. As there were 220 cases on the register at the end of 1950, an increase of 12 since 1949, and 9 deaths, some 24 cases have been removed because of either recovery or transfer to other districts.

Compared with the County this district has had twice the incidence of pulmonary disease and half as much again of the non-pulmonary type.

Before regarding these findings with alarm, it is necessary to remember that tuberculosis is principally a disease of the young adult, and that in the proximity of the City of Norwich there is a larger proportion of the population in the susceptible age group than elsewhere in the County. Facilities for diagnosis are better and cases are therefore being diagnosed earlier and happily so, because this is the stage at which a permanent cure may be anticipated.

The figures still show that the age group most prone to contract the disease is the young woman between the ages of 15 and 25. The male is slightly less susceptible at this age, tends to break down a little later in life and after 55 shows an increased incidence which is absent in the females of the same age group. In spite of this, the total number of female cases is only 2/3 that of the male.

I have made a survey of the 77 cases notified during the last 3 years in order to see if there are any significant environmental factors.

The first outstanding finding is that all but a very small number live in very good houses. In only 2 cases could the houses be described as Grade V and only 13 were classified as Grade III. 18 cases lived in good Council houses and 40 owned or rented their own good standard dwellings.

Of 27 adult female cases, 20 were housewives and of these half were between 20 and 30 years of age and 6 of them were between 20 and 25. Of the women working outside the home the age of incidence seemed earlier between 15 and 25, with several at the age of 17.

In 28 male cases, the black-coated worker predominated (14), 8 were in the semi-skilled or labouring grade and 6 were either retired or invalided from the Services. No doubt there is a tendency for the more delicate to take up indoor work of a clerical type and the large number of clerks in the group does not therefore suggest that this occupation is dangerous in itself. All the indoor workers broke down early, before the age of 30, whereas the outdoor workers appeared to come into the later age groups between 35 and 45.

It is a remarkable fact that no case when notified was described as an agricultural worker.

It would appear that while the more urban areas attract the enterprising and possibly the more intelligent, they definitely have to accept the less robust, with the consequent swelling of their sickness rates.

Diagnosis.

Local diagnostic facilities include a mass radiography unit centred on Norwich and a chest clinic at the Norwich Isolation Hospital. Extensive use had been made of both these centres and a measure of the enthusiasm of general practitioners for early diagnosis is the large number of specimens sent to the laboratory for examination for tubercle:—

<i>Total Number of Sputum Examinations during 1950</i>					211
Cases already)	No. positive ...	...	...	...	20
Notified)	No. negative ...	...	...	...	50
Patients not on T.B. Register with negative results					141

It is hoped that before long all cases will be diagnosed in the early curable stage and none be notified for the first time as advanced or incurable.

Treatment.

Facilities for treatment have also improved, as can be seen from the following tables:—

<i>Admissions to Sanatoria</i>					
	Male		Female		Total
1947	3	...	2	...	5
1948	3	...	3	...	6
1949	6	...	4	...	10
1950	9	...	9	...	18
	—		—		—
	21		18		39
	—		—		—

It is gratifying to know that more beds are becoming available for treatment every year. New methods of medical treatment are cutting down the time spent in sanatoria and thus the turnover of patients is becoming more rapid.

Although no exact data are available I understand that B.C.G. vaccination is offered to all susceptible contacts and is being accepted more readily. It is hoped that this procedure will gradually eliminate the disease from the younger age groups, specially from those under school age.

General Remarks.

The fight against tuberculosis is not yet won, but the battle is joined, and with the continued enthusiasm and increasing co-operation of all workers, we may anticipate a gradual reduction in the number contracting this very serious disease.

Any measure which will reduce the mental and physical strain on the young woman, specially if she be a housewife, would reduce the number of breakdowns at the danger period.

In both sexes, nutrition must play an important part, and although it is possible today to have a balanced diet, the shortage of meat must tend to make many people fill up with an undue proportion of starch and to go seriously short of protein.

HOUSING

WAITING LIST

Applicants at 31st December, 1949	...	...	...	...	1,307
Applicants at 31st December, 1950	...	...	...	...	1,472

ANALYSIS OF WAITING LIST

Families with 2 or less children	...	...	...	...	1,300
Families with 3 or more children	...	...	...	...	172
Agricultural Workers	...	...	...	...	263
Others	...	...	...	...	1,209

LOCAL AUTHORITY HOUSES

Position at 31st December, 1950:

Pre-war	...	565			
Post-war	...	538		Total	1,103
Third Post-war Housing Programme—Total proposed houses					240

HOUSES COMPLETED BY LOCAL AUTHORITY DURING 1950

Total houses	142
--------------	-----

EX-GOVERNMENT CAMPS

No. of Families occupying these camps:—

At 31st December, 1949	...	...	...	...	207
At 31st December, 1950	...	...	...	...	202

Total number of applicants housed in camps from waiting list during 1950	39
--	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	----

There were 165 more applicants on the waiting-list at the end than at the beginning of 1950 and 142 new houses were completed during the year. The building programme therefore, although much better than last year, is not yet keeping pace with the new demand for houses. Fortunately, the additions to the list have mostly been the smaller family units, i.e., childless couples, many no doubt newlyweds, and couples with 2 or less children.

The proportion of larger to smaller family units is now 1:8 and agricultural workers to other applicants 1:5, smaller in both cases than last year. This shows that the Council is still giving priority to the larger family and the agricultural worker.

It would have been pleasant to report a considerable reduction if not a total abolition of hutted accommodation during the year but unfortunately the general shortage of houses is still too acute to permit of this. A small start has been made, however, and it will be noted that there are 5 fewer families living in this type of house.

These hutments were never intended for prolonged occupation as dwellings and they become less serviceable each year. It is to be hoped that next year I shall be able to report a much larger reduction in the number of these temporary dwellings.

WATER SUPPLY

Some progress was made in the provision of main water supply during the year.

The scheme for the sinking of a bore well at Salle obtained the approval of the Ministry in 1950. This bore is intended to become the main source of supply for that part of the district in which the Council retains the responsibility of water undertaker. The work on this bore well was commenced before the end of the year.

In the parishes of Foulsham and Themelthorpe work was started on the laying of water mains.

Approval was obtained from the Ministry for the Council's scheme for water supply to the parish of Great Witchingham.

SEWERAGE

Two sewerage schemes at Aylsham and Reepham respectively received the approval of the Ministry during the year and it was hoped that the work would be started early in 1951.

SOCIAL HEALTH

Further encouraging reports come from the various parishes in the district of the opening of Village Halls, playing fields and children's playgrounds.

Four new playing fields have been opened during the year and one children's playground, and there are two new Village Halls. Local efforts are being made in several parishes to obtain similar amenities. The use to which these facilities are put is of added interest and activities such as drama groups, youth clubs and further educational classes become more numerous each year. Soon it will be a backward community indeed that does not boast of at least some of these interests, for the welfare of the countryside may well depend upon the satisfaction to be obtained in a healthy community life.

CONCLUSION

I am glad to report that the health of the district has been satisfactory during the year. In spite of very large epidemics of measles and whooping cough there were fewer infant and child deaths than last year indicating a sound level of general health in the children of the district.

Tuberculosis is still taking its toll but there are encouraging signs that treatment is becoming increasingly effective and is sought at an earlier stage.

The district's greatest need is still for many more houses and acceleration in the execution of its water and sewerage schemes.

In conclusion, I have to thank the Chairman and members of the Public Health Committee for their continued support and encouragement and to acknowledge the loyal co-operation of the staff.

I have the honour to be,
Your obedient servant,
(Signed) IRENE B. M. GREEN,
Medical Officer of Health.

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area (in acres)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	93,119
Population (Census 1931)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	25,648
Population (estimated resident 1950)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	37,500
Number of structurally separate dwellings (1931)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7,660
Rateable Value, 31st December, 1950	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£156,215
Estimated Net Produce of a Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£585

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR

which relate to the net births and deaths after correction for inward and outward transfer as furnished by the Registrar:—

<i>Total Males Females</i>							& Aylsham	& Wales		
LIVE BIRTHS							1950	1949	1950	
Legitimate	557	283	274	} Birth rate per 1,000 of esti- mated resident population ...						
Illegitimate	28	17	11							
Total ...	585	300	285							
					15.9	16.50	15.8			
Still Birth rate per 1,000 total										
(Live and Still) Births	20.1	16.3	22.6		

STILL BIRTHS

Legitimate	11	7	4	} Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident popula- tion 0.32 0.27 0.37
Illegitimate	1	1	—	
Total ...	12	8	4	

DEATHS

Total ...	382	195	187	} Crude death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population ... 10.1 10.8 11.6

Deaths from puerperal causes—0.

INFANT DEATHS				<i>Total</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
Legitimate	...	...	...	17	11	6
Illegitimate	...	...	...	1	1	—
				—	—	—
Totals	...	...	...	18	12	6
				St. Faith's & Aylsham		England & Wales
Infant Mortality	Rate	per	1,000	1950	1949	1950
live births	...	...	...	30.70	33.22	29.8

Ages at Death (Infants under 1 year)

<i>Ages</i>				<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
1st day ...	...	...	...	2	—	2
1-7 days	...	...	...	4	3	7
1-4 weeks	...	...	...	—	1	1
1-3 months	...	...	...	4	1	5
3-6 months	...	...	...	1	—	1
6-9 months	...	...	...	—	—	—
9-12 month	...	...	...	1	1	2
				—	—	—
				12	6	18

Causes of Death (Infants under 1 year)

				<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Total—9						
Inevitable						
	Prematurity	...	...	2	1	3
	Congenital Defects	...	...	5	1	6
Total—2	Obstetrical Injury	...	...	1	1	2
Total—7						
Preventable						
	Infectious	...	...	2	3	5
Preventable						
	Accidental	...	...	2	—	2

The causes of death are given in the following table supplied by the Registrar-General:—

<i>Causes of Death</i>					<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
All Causes					195	187	382
1	Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ...	...	...	...	5	4	9
2	Other forms of Tuberculosis ...	...	...	...	1	—	1
3	Syphilitic Disease ...	...	...	...	—	—	—
4	Diphtheria ...	...	...	...	—	—	—
5	Whooping Cough ...	...	...	...	—	1	1
6	Meningococcal Infections ...	...	...	...	—	—	—
7	Acute Poliomyelitis ...	...	...	...	—	—	—
8	Measles ...	...	...	...	1	1	2
9	Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases ...	...	...	...	—	—	—
10	Malignant Neoplasm of Stomach ...	...	...	...	—	—	—
11	Malignant Neoplasm of Lung or Bronchus ...	...	...	...	3	2	5
12	Malignant Neoplasm of Breast ...	...	...	...	—	4	4
13	Malignant Neoplasm of Uterus ...	...	...	...	—	1	1
14	Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasm...	...	...	...	20	18	38
15	Leukaemia Aleukaemia ...	...	...	...	—	1	1
16	Diabetes ...	...	...	...	—	2	2
17	Vascular Lesions of Nervous System ...	...	...	...	15	31	46
18	Coronary Disease, Angina ...	...	...	...	34	21	55
19	Hypertension with Heart Disease ...	...	...	...	5	6	11
20	Other Heart Disease ...	...	...	...	35	36	71
21	Other Circulatory Disease ...	...	...	...	11	14	25
22	Influenza ...	...	...	...	2	2	4
23	Pneumonia ...	...	...	...	3	4	7
24	Bronchitis ...	...	...	...	1	3	4
25	Other Disease of Respiratory System ...	...	...	...	1	1	2
26	Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum ...	...	...	...	3	1	4
27	Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhœa ...	...	...	...	—	—	—
28	Nephritis and Nephrosis ...	...	...	...	1	—	1
29	Hyperplasia of Prostate ...	...	...	...	7	—	7
30	Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion ...	...	...	...	—	—	—
31	Congenital Malformations ...	...	...	...	1	—	1
32	Other Defined and Ill-defined Disease ...	...	...	...	26	23	49
33	Motor Vehicle Accidents ...	...	...	...	2	1	3
34	All Other Accidents ...	...	...	...	10	4	14
35	Suicide ...	...	...	...	1	—	1
36	Homicide and Operations of War ...	...	...	...	1	—	1

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis)

The incidence of notifiable disease during the year is shown in the two subjoined tables: the first table sets out the total notifications, whilst the second shows the distribution according to age.

<i>Disease</i>	<i>Total Cases</i>	<i>Admitted to Hospital</i>	<i>Deaths</i>	<i>Notification Rate per 1,000 Population</i>	
				<i>St. Faith's & Aylsham</i>	<i>England & Wales</i>
				1950	
Scarlet Fever ...	55	14	—	1.46	1.50
Whooping Cough ...	289	1	1	7.70	3.60
Measles ...	777	—	2	20.72	8.39
Diphtheria ...	2	1	—	0.53	0.02
Poliomyelitis ...	16	13	—		
Pneumonia ...	20	14	7		
Erysipelas ...	3	1	—		
Infective Jaundice ...	12	—	—		
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	2	—	—		
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	2	—	—		
Food Poisoning ...	2	—	—		
Meningococcal Infection	1	1	—		
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>		
	1,181	45	10		
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>		

<i>Disease</i>	<i>Ages</i>														<i>Total</i>
	0	1	2	3	4	5	10	15	25	35	45	55	65		
Scarlet Fever ...	—	1	2	4	9	33	3	3	—	—	—	—	—	...	55
Whooping Cough	24	20	44	41	37	115	5	—	2	1	—	—	—	...	289
Measles ...	16	61	89	75	140	353	26	12	3	1	1	—	—	...	777
Diphtheria ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	...	2
Ac Poliomyelitis ...	—	—	1	1	—	2	2	3	4	3	—	—	—	...	16
Pneumonia ...	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	1	—	4	2	4	7	...	20
Erysipelas ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	1	...	3
Infective Jaundice	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	3	2	—	2	2	1	...	12
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	...	2
Ophthalmia															
Neonatorum	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	...	2
Food Poisoning ...	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	...	2
Meningococcal															
Infection	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	...	1
Totals ...	42	82	136	124	186	504	38	22	15	10	7	6	9	...	1181

TUBERCULOSIS

Particulars of the new cases of Tuberculosis, deaths from the disease, and the total number of cases in the area during 1950 are given in the following tables:—

<i>Age Periods</i>	<i>New Cases</i>				<i>Deaths</i>			
	<i>Respiratory</i>		<i>Non-Respiratory</i>		<i>Respiratory</i>		<i>Non-Respiratory</i>	
	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
0— ...	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—
1— ...	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
5— ...	3	1	2	3	—	—	—	—
15— ...	3	10	—	3	—	—	—	—
25— ...	6	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
35— ...	7	2	1	—	1	—	—	—
45— ...	—	1	1	1	1	1	—	—
55— ...	5	1	—	—	2	2	—	—
65								
upwards	1	1	—	—	1	1	—	—
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	26	19	6	7	5	4	1	—
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
<i>Type of Case</i>					<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>	
Respiratory	...	...	...	...	83	70	153	
Non-Respiratory	...	...	...	...	33	34	67	
Totals	...	...	...	...	116	104	220	

Sanitary Inspector's Report FOR THE YEAR 1950

I have the honour of presenting the following report for the year 1950:—

NUMBER OF INSPECTIONS AND VISITS MADE DURING THE YEAR IN CONNECTION WITH SANITARY AND OTHER WORK.

Inspections under the Public Health Acts	...	...	...	...	2,560
Revisits to ascertain progress of work	...	...	...	...	1,590
Inspections under the Housing Acts	...	...	...	...	1,321
Revisits to ascertain progress of work	...	...	...	...	249
Inspections and revisits of Moveable Dwellings	...	...	...	...	82
Visits to Infectious Disease Cases	...	...	...	...	98

Rooms disinfected	...	...	...	...	...	...	37
Inspections of Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	254
Inspections of Meat Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	51
Inspections of Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	40
Inspections of Provisions Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	44
Inspections of Fried Fish Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	49
Inspections of Ice Cream Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	68
Inspections of Restaurant Kitchens	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
Inspections of Factories	...	...	...	...	...	...	26
Inspections in connection with Scavenging Schemes	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,020
Inspections of Sewers	...	...	...	...	...	...	64
Inspections of Sanitary Accommodation at Schools	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
Inspections of Public Conveniences	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Samples of Water taken for Analysis	...	...	...	...	...	...	82
Inspections under Petroleum Acts	...	...	...	...	...	...	34
Other visits interviewing owners, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	409
Inspections under Building Byelaws	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,940
Inspections in connection with the issue of Building Licences	...	...	...	...	...	...	309
Total							10,375

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION

The following are the particulars of the work carried out in connection with Meat and Food Inspection during the year.

The number of carcasses inspected at the Slaughterhouse under the control of the Ministry of Food were as follows:—

Beef	...	...	...	...	...	2,322
Pork	...	...	...	...	...	916
Mutton	...	...	...	...	...	3,310
Veal	...	...	...	...	...	795
Total						7,343

The following is a summary of the meat condemned as being unfit for human consumption, and the bracketed figures indicate the number which were affected with Tuberculosis:—

BEEF—

46 Carcases and all Offal (11) 1 Pluck
26 Forequarters (10)
12 Hindquarters (5)
2,007 lbs. Beef (310)
234 Heads (171)
241 Tongues (138)
816 Livers (71)

591 Parts Livers (20)
 460 Sets Lungs (212)
 105 Mesenteries (34)
 10 Spleens (8)
 5 Hearts (2)
 20 Kidneys (2)
 2 Tripes (1)
 6 Diaphragms.

Reasons for condemnation other than Tuberculosis were:—

Abscesses	Injuries
Actinomycosis	Melanosia
Angioma	Necrosis
Bone Taint	Nephritis
Cirrhosis	Oedema
Congestion	Pentastomum
Decomposition	Pneumonia
Distomatosis	Septicaemia
Echinococcus	Septic Pericarditis
Fatty Infiltration	Tumours
Fever	Uraemia
Fibrosis	

PORK—

34 Carcases and all Offal (6)
 267 lbs. Pork
 27 Heads (23)
 6 Sets Lungs
 2 Hearts
 39 Livers
 13 Mesenteries (6)
 11 Tongues (7)
 10 Sets Intestines
 56 Plucks (18)
 18 Kidneys
 1 Spleen
 1 Part Liver
 3 Hindquarters.

Reasons for condemnation other than Tuberculosis were:—

Cirrhosis	Injuries
Fever	Oedema
Immaturity	Pneumonia
Inflammation	Swine Erysipelas
Jaundice	Swine Fever

MUTTON—

19 Whole Carcases and all Offal
1 Head
5 Hindquarters
80 Livers
22 Plucks
4 Forequarters
68 lbs. Mutton.

Reasons for condemnation were:—

Tuberculosis	Injuries
Abscesses	Parasites
Dropsy	Pneumonia
Fever	Inflammation

VEAL—

9 Whole Carcases and all Offal (1)
1 Set of Lungs
172 lbs. Veal
11 Plucks (1)
1 Forequarter
2 Heads
23 Livers
2 Kidneys.

Reasons for condemnation other than Tuberculosis were:—

Inflammation	Necrosis
Melanosis	Pyæma
Jaundice	Immaturity

OTHER FOODS CONDEMNED—

202 Tins of Meat and Fish
126 Tins of Milk
260 Tins Vegetables, etc.
60 lbs. Beef
50 lbs. Corned Beef
160 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs. Cheese.
1 Bottle Tomato Ketchup
2 Bottles Salad Cream
67 Jars Pickles
3 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. Biscuits
14 lbs. Prunes
24 lbs. Bacon
70 lbs. Imported Rabbit Carcases
24 lbs. Liquid Egg

- 9,932 Eggs
- 2 Bottles Sauce
- 1 Pkt. Sponge Mixture
- 2 Pkts. Kellogg's All Bran
- 4 Bottles Coffee
- 2 Pkts. Salt.

ICE CREAM SAMPLING

The following is the record of the results of samples taken during the year. The Grades are those defined by Regulations, Grades I and II being regarded as satisfactory and Grades III and IV unsatisfactory.

<i>Manufacturer or Retailer</i>	<i>Heat Treated or Cold Mix</i>	<i>Methylene Blue Test</i>	<i>Grade</i>
1. Retailer (Prepacked)		Not decolourised in 4½ hours	I
2. Manufacturer ...	Heat Treated	Not decolourised in 4½ hours	I
3. Manufacturer ...	Heat Treated	Decolourised immediately	IV
4. Manufacturer ...	Heat Treated	Not decolourised in 4 hours	II
5. Manufacturer ...	Heat Treated	Not decolourised in 3 hours	II
6. Retailer (Prepacked)		Not decolourised in 3 hours	II
7. Retailer (Prepacked)		Not decolourised in 4½ hours	I
8. Retailer (Prepacked)		Not decolourised in 2 hours	III
9. Retailer		Not decolourised in 4½ hours	I
10. Retailer (Prepacked)		Not decolourised in 4½ hours	I
11. Retailer (Prepacked)		Not decolourised in 4 hours	II
12. Manufacturer ...	Heat Treated	Not decolourised in 3½ hours	II
13. Manufacturer ...	Heat Treated	Not decolourised in 3 hours	II

It will be observed that of the thirteen samples taken, all but two were satisfactory.

SCAVENGING

From the 1st April, 1950, the scavenging service was extended to cover the whole district both for the collection of house refuse and night-soil.

House refuse is now collected weekly in 31 of the 48 parishes in the district and fortnightly in the 17 smaller parishes.

Night-soil is collected weekly in all parishes and twice weekly from the larger households in the parishes of Aylsham, Reepham, Wroxham and Great Witchingham. A small number of very isolated houses do not receive the service as such properties have ample ground space for disposal without endangering public health, and it would not be economic to include them in the scheme.

It is gratifying to be able to record that the operation of the scheme has been very satisfactory and that the number of complaints has been small.

With the inception of the extension of the scheme a special effort was made to clear the numerous unsightly tin and rubbish dumps in the district and by the end of the year only one known dump remained for attention. With this clearance and the removal of any need for further indiscriminate dumping an improvement of the amenities of the countryside has been effected.

For the collection of house refuse there are six motor vehicles, one of which is held in reserve and 14 men are employed. In the parish of Foulsham collection is made by a contractor who uses a horse drawn vehicle owned by the Council. Disposal of the refuse was by controlled tipping at sites in the parishes of Frettenham, Wroxham, Reepham and Aylsham.

For Night-soil there are 5 motor vehicles one of which is held in reserve and 9 men are employed to work with these. In addition one man is employed part time in the parish of Great Witchingham using a horse drawn vehicle and a contractor also using a horse drawn vehicle carries out the work in the parish of Foulsham. This branch of the service presents its special problems one of which is maintaining regular collections at times of national holidays, and when fog and wintry conditions hinder road transport as it can be appreciated any delay would give rise to a nuisance at a large number of premises, while another is to obtain and hold the labour able and willing to undertake the work. Disposal has been by tipping on farm land but it is becoming more and more difficult to obtain tipping facilities chiefly due to the farmworkers increasing unwillingness to spreading night-soil as a manure. Furthermore it is very difficult indeed to choose a site no matter how comparatively isolated that does not produce some criticism or complaint. Naturally the conservancy system is unpopular and creates an unpleasant job and to a certain degree the removal of the individual responsibility for carrying out that job has the tendency to make the individual super-critical of how it is done.

In addition the Council carries out the emptying of cesspools at a small charge to the occupiers of premises, the charges being about equal to the operating costs. The Council acquired an additional vehicle during the year and now operates three and the assistance the service is to householders and others is confirmed by the steadily increasing demand for it. This is illustrated by the following figures giving the number of loads removed from cesspools during the past six years.

Year—1945, 1,198 loads.

1946, 1,685 loads.

1947, 2,208 loads.

1948, 3,127 loads.

1949, 4,882 loads.

1950, 6,564 loads.

As in the case of night-soil it is not easy to find suitable sites for disposal and a considerable proportion of the operative time is devoted to travelling to and from the point for disposal.

All the scavenging vehicles with the exception of two horse drawn vehicles operate from the Council's depot which was completed in March, 1950. The depot comprises garage and workshop accommodation and includes a mess room with washing facilities and sanitary conveniences. Every effort is made to maintain the depot and refuse tip in keeping with the amenities of the countryside.

The depot has modern equipment including a car washer, compressor and air line, high pressure greaser and oil gun, hydraulic jack, battery charging equipment and sparking plug cleaner. This equipment has proved to be very valuable in the maintaining of the vehicles in an efficient running condition. The night-soil collecting vehicles are washed down daily. There is a mechanical shovel for levelling and covering refuse, and also a mechanical baler for tins. Three men are employed at the depot and tip.

SALVAGE

The demand for salvage was considerably below that for recent years and during the year 47 tons was received from the refuse and sold for the sum of £198 16s. 6d.

It included the following materials:—

Waste paper	...	...	...	22 tons	13 cwts.
Heavy iron	...	...	...	3 tons	11 cwts.
Baled tins	...	...	...	17 tons	11 cwts.
Non-ferrous metals	...	...	...		8 cwts.
Rags	...	...	...	2 tons	12 cwts.

WATER SUPPLIES

During the summer months the level of water in most of the wells in the district continued to cause some anxiety but again fortunately the supply was in general reasonably well maintained, and there was no need to institute the carting of water. In the latter half of the year there was a comparatively heavy rainfall and by the end of the year the water level in the wells had risen and continued to rise, giving promise of a more adequate supply being available for the following year.

Work was commenced of laying mains in the parishes of Foulsham and Themelthorpe, where a supply has been very urgently needed for a number of years. The Ministry approved the scheme for a mains supply in the parish of Great Witchingham. The Council acquired a small length of main which had been laid by the Air Ministry in the parish of Haveringland, and thus provided a supply to two properties.

A borewell and mains were provided to a Housing Estate at Weston Longville, and it will be possible to extend the mains to supply the small main centre of population in the parish. This work was carried out under the supervision of this department.

The sinking of the borewell at Salle to provide the main source of supply for the western half of the district was commenced.

SEWERAGE

The Ministry approved the sewerage scheme for the parish of Aylsham and stage 1 of the scheme for the parish of Reepham.

The sewer ditches at Aylsham were thoroughly cleaned out during the year.

Small sewage schemes in connection with the Council house estates were designed by this department and were commenced in the parishes of Weston Longville, St. Faith's Hainford and Wroxham.

HOUSING

The shortage of houses still remains and the rentals of the older properties do not make the carrying out of extensive repairs a reasonable proposition, and works of repair are confined to those which are absolutely essential and which in many cases are long overdue. There is a steady deterioration in such properties, which is a matter for continued concern.

During the year the Council considered the question of making Demolition Orders in respect of four dwellings and three Orders were made, the owners undertaking to repair was accepted in respect of the fourth and the work was carried out.

The use of Caravans for dwelling purposes is increasing, and at the end of the year 26 Licences in respect of these dwellings were in operation.

Progress was made in the Housing Survey and the gradings of those houses already surveyed were checked and reviewed and the numbers surveyed and their gradings at the end of the year were as follows:—

Class I.	Houses suitable in all respects for habitation	...	4,350
II.	Houses with minor defects	... ..	483
III.	Houses needing repairs, structural alterations and improvements	... ..	1,634
IV.	Houses suitable for reconditioning under "Housing Rural Workers" Acts	... ..	602
V.	Unfit for habitation and beyond repair at reasonable expense	... ..	750

It is expected that the survey will be completed during the year 1951 and that it will be possible to give complete figures in the next Annual Report.

BUILDING LICENCES

The following is a summary of the work involved in connection with the issue of Building Licences during the year. The Council has still a long list of outstanding applications for Licences for the erection of new houses in addition to the number received during the year as set out below:—

NEW HOUSES—

No. of houses for which applications for Building Licences were received	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	49
No. of houses for which Licences were issued	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
No. of proposed houses for which Licences were refused	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	35

REPAIR OF HOUSES AND OTHER WORK—

No. of applications received	...	...	...	...	...	...	114
No. of applications refused	...	...	...	...	...	...	29
No. of Licences issued	...	...	...	...	...	...	85

MAINTENANCE LICENCES—

No. of applications received	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
No. of applications refused	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
No. of Licences issued	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil

In addition to the above, 30 recommendations were made to the Regional Licensing Officer of the Ministry of Works as to the issue of Licences.

BAKEHOUSES

There are 21 Bakehouses in the district, 40 visits of inspection have been made. It is gratifying to be able to record it was not necessary to serve any notices in connection with these premises.

SUMMARY OF NUISANCES ABATED AND OTHER WORK CARRIED OUT DURING THE YEAR

During the year 198 notices have been served in connection with Public Health and Housing defects, and as a result the following works have been carried out:—

HOUSING—

Sinks repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Piped water supplies provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	25
Pumps to wells repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Well covers repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Ashbins provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	62
Wells repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Privies converted to pail closets	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Closet buildings repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10

New pails provided to pail closets	...	...	...	...	9
Rainwater guttering provided	...	...	...	...	10
Rainwater guttering repaired	...	...	...	...	4
Roofs repaired	...	...	...	...	36
Window frames repaired	...	...	...	...	12
Window frames made to open	...	...	...	...	5
Floors repaired	...	...	...	...	17
Doors and door frames repaired	...	...	...	...	9
Ceilings repaired	...	...	...	...	9
Walls repaired	...	...	...	...	13
Wall plaster repaired	...	...	...	...	13
Chimney stacks repaired	...	...	...	...	10
Stoves repaired	...	...	...	...	6
Coppers and ovens repaired or replaced	...	...	...	...	8
Dampness remedied	...	...	...	...	37
Rooms cleansed and redecorated	...	...	...	...	9

DRAINAGE—

Ditches and watercourses cleared	...	...	...	...	Nil
Drains cleared	...	...	...	...	5
Drains repaired	...	...	...	...	7
Inspection chamber covers provided	...	...	...	...	2
Cesspools emptied	...	...	...	...	11

MISCELLANEOUS—

Accumulations of manure and refuse removed	...	...	...	...	4
Bakehouses limewashed	...	...	...	...	Nil
Slaughterhouses limewashed	...	...	...	...	Nil

In conclusion I should like to express my thanks to the Chairman, Members of the Public Health Committee and the Medical Officer of Health for their support and to each member of the staff for their unfailing co-operation.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed) H. S. HAWKINS.

TUDOR HALL,

ROSE LANE,

NORWICH.

